AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A masterbatch which includes:

a chlorinated polyolefin;

processing aid selected from the group consisting of an acrylic processing aid or a wax processing aid;

an acrylic impact modifier; and

at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dye, pigment, non-acrylic functional additive or non-wax functional additive; and

wherein the masterbatch is substantially free of PVC.

2. (Canceled) A masterbatch according to claim 1 which is substantially free of PVC.

3. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1 further ~~includes~~ comprising processing additives, incidental ingredients, fillers and/or impurities.

4. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of calcium oxide, calcium stearate, chalk, and a wax.

5. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin is present in an amount up to about 30% by weight of the total weight of the masterbatch.

6. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin is selected from a the group consisting of chlorinated polyester elastomer, chlorinated polyethylene or chlorinated polypropylene.

7. (Original) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the chlorine content of the polyolefin is greater than 30.

8. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the crystallinity (DS) of the chlorinated polyolefin is in the range of about 0 to about 1.0.

9. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the shore A hardness of the chlorinated polyolefin is no more than about 95.

10. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic processing aid is present in an amount up to about 10% by weight of the masterbatch.

11. (Original) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic processing aid is a methylmethacrylate based processing aid.

12. (Original) A masterbatch according to Claim 11, wherein the methylmethacrylate based processing aid is co-polymerised with ethyl acrylate (BA), Butyl acrylate (BA), Butyl methylacrylate (BMA) or styrene.

13. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the processing aid includes a polymethyl methacrylate based processing aid.

14. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic impact modifier is present in an amount up to about 30% by weight of the masterbatch.

15. (Original) A masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic impact modifier may be an acrylic/styrene polymer, poly (BA/MMA) or poly (EA/MMA).

16. (Currently amended) A multipurpose masterbatch carrier which includes:

a chlorinated polyolefin;

a processing aid selected from the group consisting of an acrylic processing aid and a wax processing aid; ~~and~~

an acrylic impact modifier; and

wherein the masterbatch is substantially free of PVC.

17. (Original) A carrier according to claim 16 for use with dyes, pigments, functional additives or the like.

18. (Previously presented) An additive for use in PVC processing, comprising a substantially PVC free blend of a chlorinated polyolefin, a processing aid selected from the

group consisting of an acrylic processing aid and a wax processing aid, and an acrylic impact modifier.

19. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a masterbatch carrier, which method includes:

a) blending at least one chlorinated polyolefin, at least one processing aid selected from the group consisting of an acrylic processing aid and a wax processing aid, and at least one acrylic impact modifier;

b) forming the blend into a shaped body; and

wherein the carrier is substantially free of PVC.

20. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a masterbatch suitable for use in the colouring of PVC, which method includes:

a) blending at least one chlorinated polyolefin, at least one processing aid selected from the group consisting of an acrylic processing aid and a wax processing aid, at least one acrylic impact modifier and a pigment and/or dye; and

b) forming the blend into a shaped body.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein the blending in step a) is in a high speed high shear mixer.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the temperature during step a) raises above ambient temperature.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein a process oil is added during step a).

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin, the acrylic processing aid and the acrylic impact modifier are all preferably free flowing powders, having a particle size of less than about 1200μ.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the additives and the dye and/or pigment typically have a particle size of less than about 1200μ in diameter.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin, the acrylic modifier and the process oil are preblended prior to step a).

27. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 26, wherein the resultant blend of chlorinated polyolefin, acrylic modifier and process oil ~~(if present)~~ is subsequently blended with the remaining components in step a).

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the blending in step a) may be for up to about 30 minutes.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the forming in step b) is extrusion.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the extrusion temperature may be up to about 190°C.

31. (Previously presented) A method of colouring PVC, which method includes blending a base PVC material with a masterbatch substantially free of PVC comprising a chlorinated polyolefin, a processing aid selected from the group consisting of an acrylic processing aid and a wax processing aid, and at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dye, pigment or functional additive.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the masterbatch is blended with the PVC material in a ratio in the range of 1:100 to 1:10 masterbatch to base PVC material.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the chlorinated polyolefin and the acrylic modifier are preblended prior to step a).

34. (Original) A method according to claim 33, wherein the resultant blend of chlorinated polyolefin and acrylic modifier is subsequently blended with the remaining components in step a).

35. (Previously presented) A masterbatch according to claim 4, wherein the wax is selected from the group consisting of amide wax, oxidized polyethylene wax, unoxidized polyethylene wax, and montan wax.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the wax is present in an amount of 0% to 10% by weight of the masterbatch.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the temperature rises to less than about 80°C.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein the forming in step b) is performed using a co-rotating screw extruder.

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the extrusion temperature is in the range of about 125°C to about 140°C.